

## RESOURCES

If you feel that you may have been the victim of a hate crime, you may want to contact the resources listed below, starting with your local police department or sheriff's office.

Local Police Department or Sheriff's Office

Your Church, Synagogue, Mosque, Temple, or Meditation Center

Ohio Attorney General's Office, Crime Victim's Assistance Program: 1-800-582-2877

Cuyahoga County Witness Victim Service Center: 216-443-7345

Ohio Civil Rights Commission: 216-787-3150 or 1-888-278-7101

First Call for Help, United Way Services: 216-436-2000

FBI, Civil Rights Program: 216-522-1400

U.S. Dept. of Education, Office for Civil Rights: 216-522-4970

Anti-Defamation League: 1-800-821-4058

Lesbian/Gay Community Service Center: 1-888-GAY-8761

The National Conference for Community and Justice: 216-752-3000

Spanish American Committee: 216-961-2100  
Hijos de Borinquen Spanish American Center: 216-361-7950

For TTY/TDD, call the Ohio Relay Service at 1-800-750-0750.

## FEDERAL HATE CRIME LAWS

### Conspiracy Against Rights, 18 U.S.C. § 241

Prohibits conspiracies to injure any person's free exercise of the rights protected by the laws or the Constitution of the U.S.

### Interference with Federally Protected Activities, 18 U.S.C. § 245

Prohibits intentional interference with enrollment in a public school/college, interstate travel, use of public establishments (restaurants, hotels, etc.), jury service, or employment on the basis of race, color, religion, or national origin.

### Damage to Religious Property/ Obstruction of Religious Activity, 18 U.S.C. § 247

Prohibits the damaging of religious property or the intentional obstruction of any person's free exercise of religious beliefs.

### Criminal Interference with the Right to Fair Housing, 42 U.S.C. § 3631

Prohibits interference with the sale, purchase, rental, financing, occupation, or contracting of a dwelling due to race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status, or national origin.

## OHIO HATE CRIME LAWS

### Desecration of Places of Worship, O.R.C. §2927.11

Prohibits desecrating any place of worship.

### Penalty Enhancement, O.R.C. §2927.12

Increases the penalty for Aggravated Menacing, Criminal Damaging or Endangering, Criminal Mischief, or Telephone Harassment, if the violation is committed because of the race, color, religion, or national origin of the victim.

*For additional copies of this brochure, please contact the FBI's Civil Rights Program at (216) 522-1400. This brochure is available in several languages and in large print.*

# HATE CRIMES

## WHAT ARE THEY?

## WHERE DO I GET HELP?



## HATE CRIME: A DEFINITION

A hate crime is:

- a criminal act or attempted act
- against a person, institution, or property
- that is motivated in whole or in part by the offender's bias against a
  - ▶ race,
  - ▶ color,
  - ▶ religion,
  - ▶ gender,
  - ▶ ethnic/national origin group,
  - ▶ disability status, or
  - ▶ sexual orientation group.

## HATE CRIME STATISTICS

During 1999, a total of 7,876 bias-motivated criminal incidents were reported to the FBI nationally, including 351 in Ohio. It is important to note, however, that reporting is voluntary and hate crimes are seriously under-reported.

The following statistics are based on information from the Southern Poverty Law Center:

	<u>1999</u>	<u>2000</u>
Hate groups in Ohio	22	26
Hate groups nationally	457	602
Hate web sites	305	366

## EXAMPLES OF HATE CRIMES

### Institutional Vandalism

The director of a local Jewish community center arrives at the center one morning to find swastikas painted on the building.

### Intimidation/Malicious Harassment

A young man is assaulted for no reason other than the color of his skin.

### Interference with the Right to Fair Housing

Members of a black family find a burnt cross on their lawn upon arriving home.

## IF YOU BELIEVE THAT YOU ARE A VICTIM OF A HATE CRIME:

- Get medical assistance if necessary.
- Contact your local police or sheriff's office as soon as possible.
- You may also wish to contact some of the resources listed on the other side of this pamphlet.

**PLEASE DO NOT IGNORE  
HATE CRIMES,  
THEY WILL ONLY ESCALATE!**

Prepared by:

The Northern Ohio Hate Crimes Working Group. *The Federal Bureau of Investigation and U.S. Attorney's Office co-sponsor the Hate Crimes Working Group, which is composed of representatives from community and ethnic groups, law enforcement and education, and is dedicated to fighting hate crimes.*

## INFORMATION FOR STUDENTS

If you believe that you may have been the victim of a hate crime, here are some suggestions:

### WHERE DO I GO FOR HELP?

- If the incident happens at school, go to your teacher, principal or counselor.
- Know your school's policy on hate crimes and look at your student handbook.
- Tell your parents what happened.

### PARENTS NEED TO ASK:

- What was said or done and by whom?
- Was a physical assault involved?
- Who saw it happen?
- Did someone help you?
- Did you tell your teacher/principal/counselor? What did they do?

### BASED ON THE RESPONSE, PARENTS SHOULD:

- Call the teacher/principal/counselor.
- Call the local police department.
- Find resources to help the child deal with the incident.
- You may also wish to contact some of the resources listed on the other side of this pamphlet.